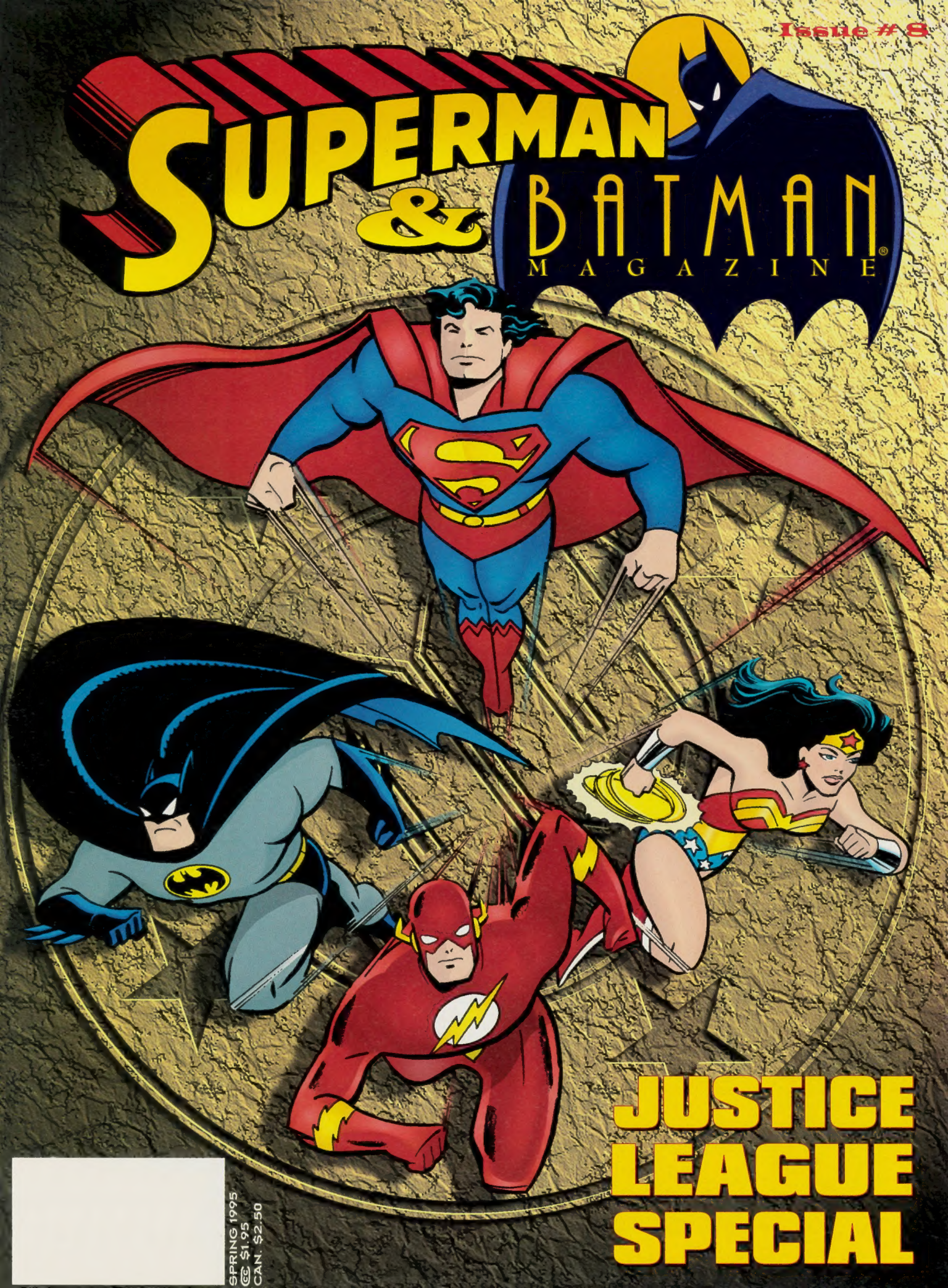
Issue # 8

SUPERMAN & BATMAN® MAGAZINE



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Superman. Batman. Wonder Woman. The Flash. They are four of Earth's greatest heroes. Each one has battled seemingly unstoppable villains—and won. But sometimes, even these super heroes face a challenge too big to tackle alone. Then, they must join together to become the most powerful super team in the DC Universe—the Justice League! In this special all-comics issue, the Justice League takes on a deadly threat from outer space in one of their greatest adventures ever!

Now, some of the members of the Justice League have joined a new team—The USA Super Teams. Together they face a different kind of challenge as they help prepare America's athletes for the Olympics and other national and international competitions. Working with sports organizations and coaches, the DC Super Heroes will promote participation and safety in more than a dozen sports.

Sit back and join us as DC Comics celebrates its 60th anniversary with this special look at the past and the future of the world's finest super heroes. And thank you for reading *Superman & Batman Magazine*. We want to hear from you. Send your letters to:
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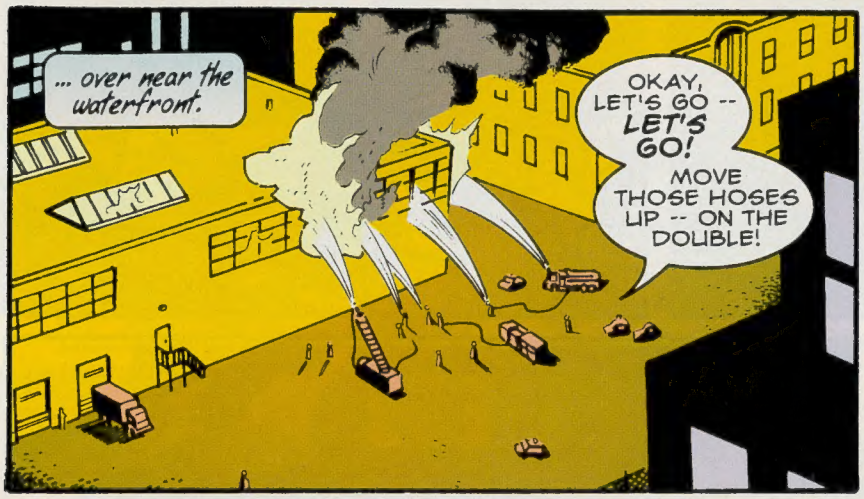
IN TIMES OF EXTREME DANGER, OUR WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES JOIN TOGETHER TO OPPOSE THOSE FORCES THAT THREATEN THE EARTH. UNITED, THEY STAND AS THE -- JUSTICE LEAGUE

ROGER STERN WRITER · TY TEMPLETON PENCILLER · RICK BURCHETT INKER · GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST · STARKINGS/COMICRAFT LETTERER · CHARLES KOCHMAN EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER • BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE • WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

Explosion?
No. Sounded more like something big impacting...

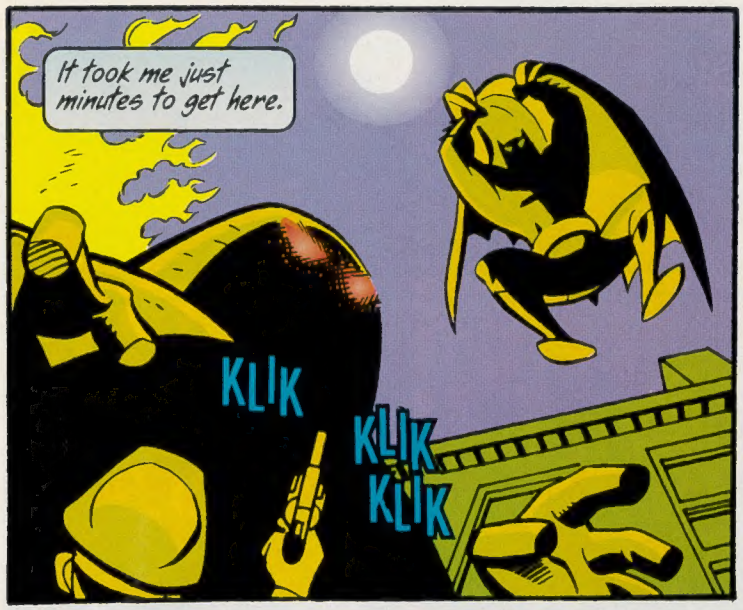

... over near the waterfront.
OKAY, LET'S GO -- LET'S GO!
MOVE THOSE HOSES UP -- ON THE DOUBLE!

WHAT A MESS! WHAT CAUSED IT, CAP'N? ARSON --?
NOT SURE. THE WATCHMAN SWORE A METEOR HIT IT.

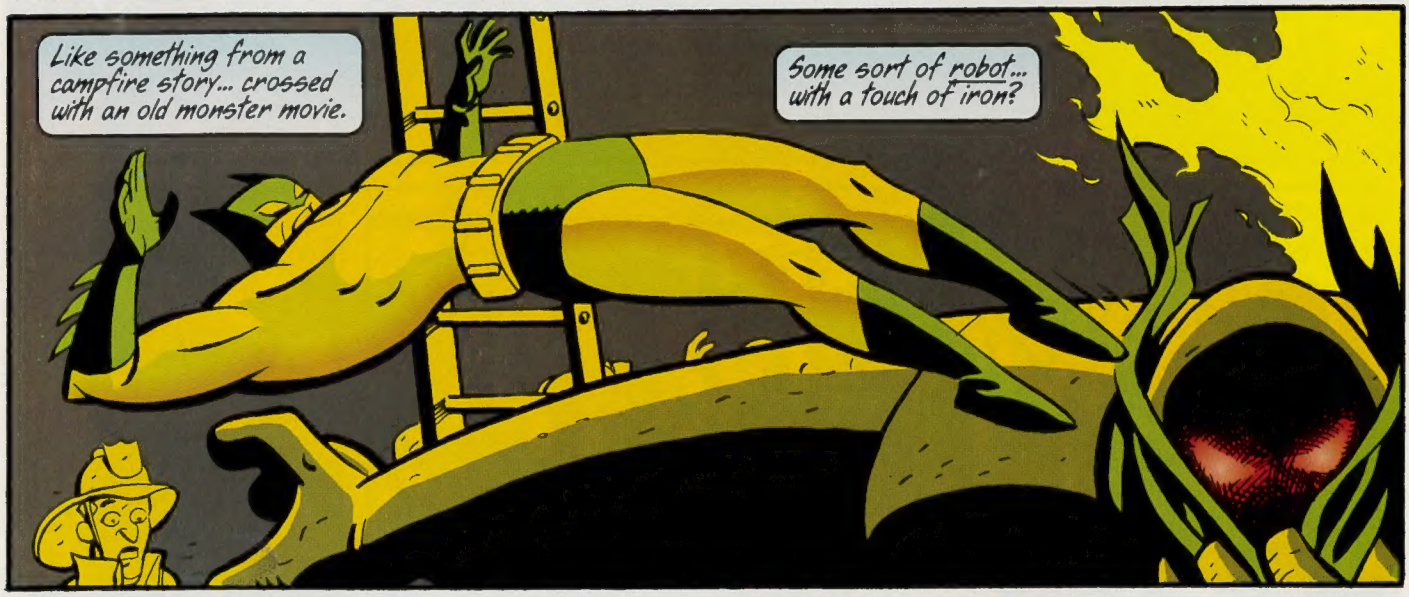
A METEOR?! YOU GOTTA BE --
BAM

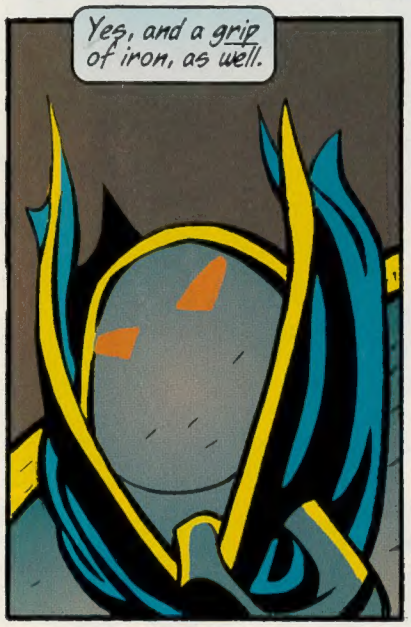
KRUNK
-- KIDDIN'?
OMIGOSH!

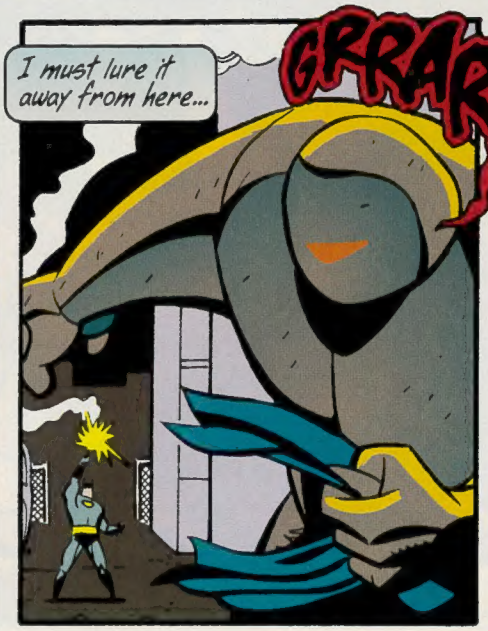
HAHHRR!
POW
POW
NO!
NOoooo!


It took me just minutes to get here.
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK

How could all... this... happen in such a short time?
RRRR!


Like something from a campfire story... crossed with an old monster movie.
Some sort of robot... with a touch of iron?


Yes, and a grip of iron, as well.

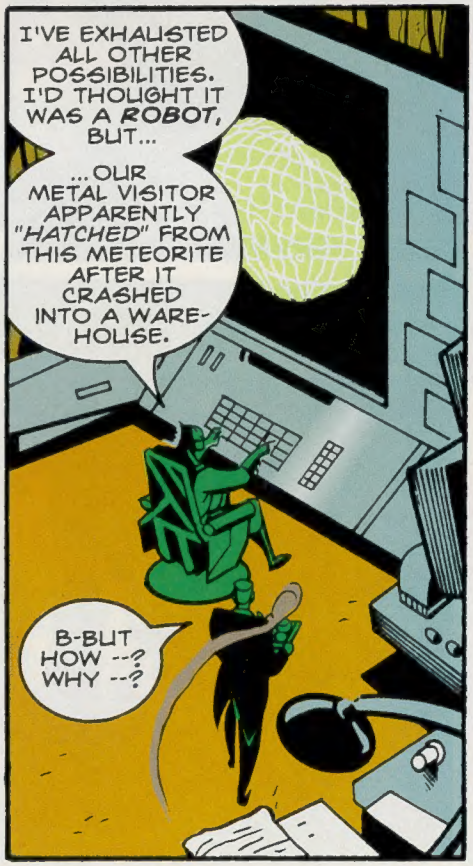

I must lure it away from here...
GRRAR!

... and make sure it doesn't harm another living person.

Lou's AUTO SALVAGE
I don't know where this thing came from, but it's clearly not human.
It's certainly as strong as iron... and as heavy.
Too heavy for me. The explosive in my belt pouch would never stop it.
Fortunately, it does not seem too smart.
WHIRRRRRRR
And the machinery of this auto salvage yard...
... is more than a match for the robot.

GOOD MORNING, SIR.
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF BRINGING YOUR BREAKFAST DOWN.
TAKING UP MODERN SCULPTURE NOW, ARE WE?
THIS "MODERN SCULPTURE" WAS ONCE EIGHT FEET TALL, ALFRED...AND HAD A VERY NASTY DISPOSITION.
A FEW HOURS AGO, IT TURNED SEVERAL OF GOTHAM'S FINEST AND A WHOLE COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS INTO SOLID METAL.

GOOD HEAVENS!
THEY'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, FORTUNATELY. THEY REVERTED TO NORMAL AFTER THE ALIEN WAS NEUTRALIZED.
ALIEN?! SIR, ARE YOU QUITE CERTAIN?


I'VE EXHAUSTED ALL OTHER POSSIBILITIES. I'D THOUGHT IT WAS A ROBOT, BUT...
...OUR METAL VISITOR APPARENTLY "HATCHED" FROM THIS METEORITE AFTER IT CRASHED INTO A WAREHOUSE.
B-BUT HOW --? WHY --?

I DON'T KNOW YET. BUT I'LL FIND OUT. AND IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF THESE CREATURES...I'M GOING TO NEED HELP.
STOPPING ALIENS IS A LITTLE OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

ANOTHER NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY. YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT POP UP.

IT'S A DAZZLING, ALL-NEW COLLECTION OF ANIMATION ART FEATURING 90 NEW CARDS PLUS A **POP-UP** CARD IN EACH PACK. THE SERIES INTRODUCES THREE MYSTERIOUS THERMAL DARK KNIGHT CARDS THAT REMAIN SHROUDED IN DARKNESS UNTIL THEY'RE TOUCHED. EVEN THE BOX ITSELF CONVERTS TO A COLLECTIBLE BATMOBILE. ALL TOGETHER THERE ARE THREE INSERT SETS WITH TWELVE **POP-UP** CARDS, THE THREE THERMAL DARK KNIGHT CARDS, AND NINE RAS FOIL CARDS. SO MANY SURPRISES, EVEN THE JOKER WOULD BE IMPRESSED.

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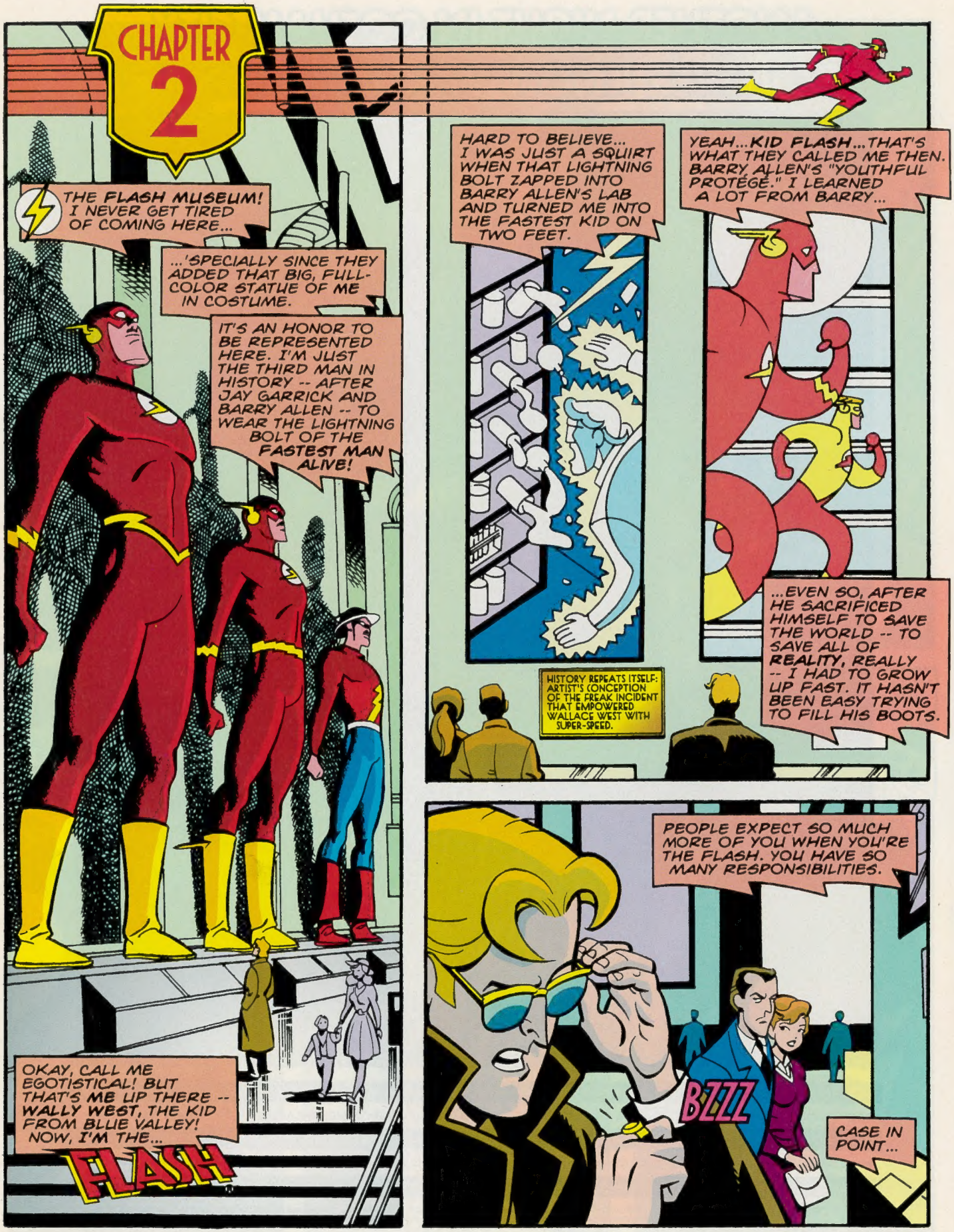
CHAPTER 2
THE FLASH MUSEUM! I NEVER GET TIRED OF COMING HERE...
...'SPECIALLY SINCE THEY ADDED THAT BIG, FULL-COLOR STATUE OF ME IN COSTUME.
IT'S AN HONOR TO BE REPRESENTED HERE. I'M JUST THE THIRD MAN IN HISTORY -- AFTER JAY GARRICK AND BARRY ALLEN -- TO WEAR THE LIGHTNING BOLT OF THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!
OKAY, CALL ME EGOTISTICAL! BUT THAT'S ME UP THERE -- WALLY WEST, THE KID FROM BLUE VALLEY! NOW, I'M THE...
FLASH
HARD TO BELIEVE... I WAS JUST A SQUIRT WHEN THAT LIGHTNING BOLT ZAPPED INTO BARRY ALLEN'S LAB AND TURNED ME INTO THE FASTEST KID ON TWO FEET.
YEAH...KID FLASH...THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED ME THEN. BARRY ALLEN'S "YOUTHFUL PROTÉGÉ." I LEARNED A LOT FROM BARRY...
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF THE FREAK INCIDENT THAT EMPOWERED WALLACE WEST WITH SUPER-SPEED.
...EVEN SO, AFTER HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE THE WORLD -- TO SAVE ALL OF REALITY, REALLY -- I HAD TO GROW UP FAST. IT HASN'T BEEN EASY TRYING TO FILL HIS BOOTS.
PEOPLE EXPECT SO MUCH MORE OF YOU WHEN YOU'RE THE FLASH. YOU HAVE SO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES.
BZZZ
CASE IN POINT...

Who swiped the torch?

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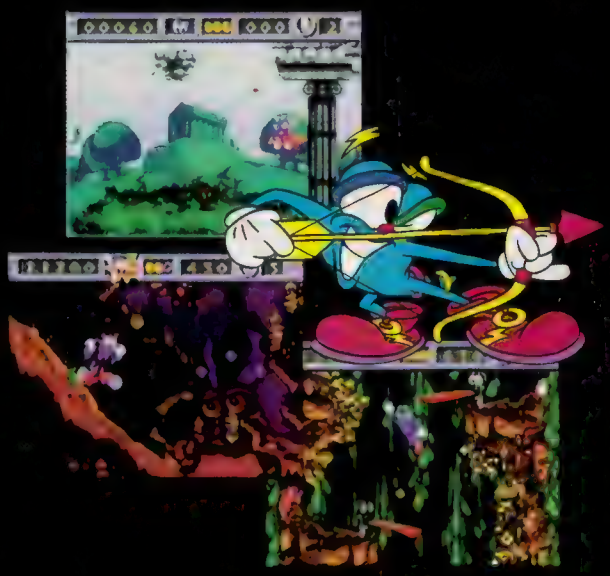

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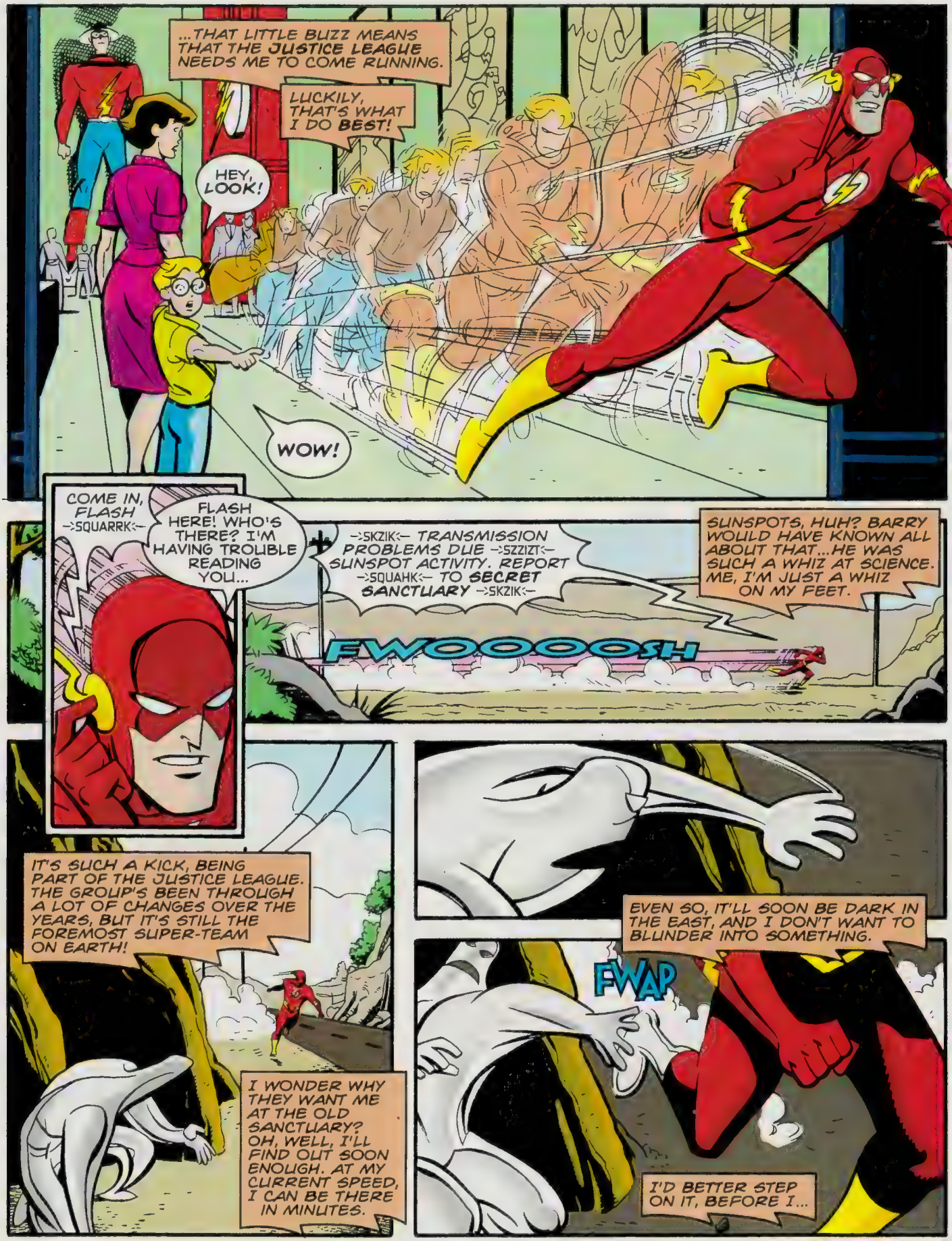
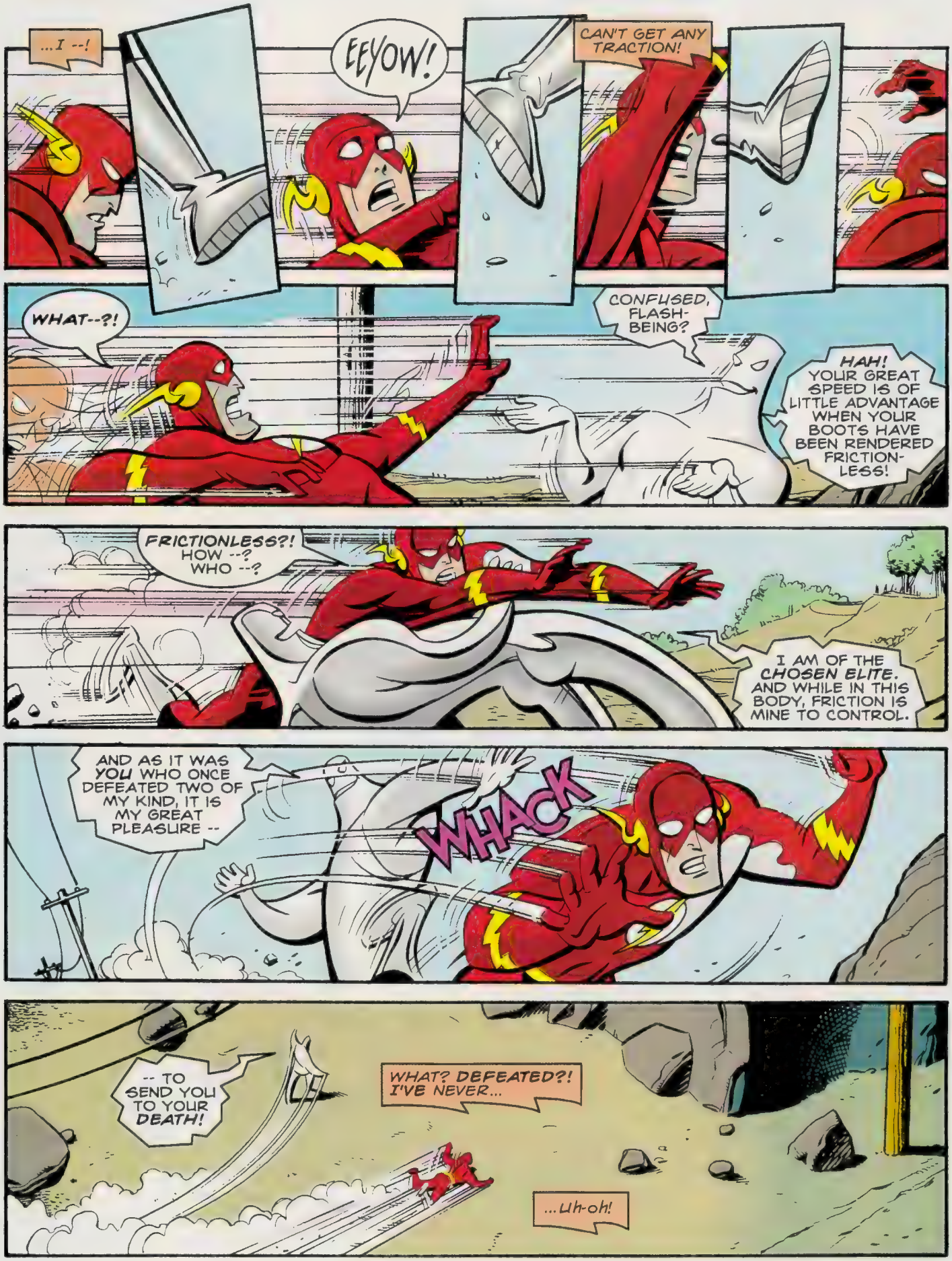

...THAT LITTLE BUZZ MEANS THAT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE NEEDS ME TO COME RUNNING.
LUCKILY, THAT'S WHAT I DO BEST!
HEY, LOOK!
WOW!
COME IN, FLASH ->SQUARRK<-
FLASH HERE! WHO'S THERE? I'M HAVING TROUBLE READING YOU...
->SKZIK<- TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS DUE ->SZZIZT<- SUNSPOT ACTIVITY. REPORT ->SQUAHK<- TO SECRET SANCTUARY ->SKZIK<-
SUNSPOTS, HUH? BARRY WOULD HAVE KNOWN ALL ABOUT THAT...HE WAS SUCH A WHIZ AT SCIENCE. ME, I'M JUST A WHIZ ON MY FEET.
FWOOOOOSH
IT'S SUCH A KICK, BEING PART OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. THE GROUP'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGES OVER THE YEARS, BUT IT'S STILL THE FOREMOST SUPER-TEAM ON EARTH!
I WONDER WHY THEY WANT ME AT THE OLD SANCTUARY? OH, WELL, I'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH. AT MY CURRENT SPEED, I CAN BE THERE IN MINUTES.
EVEN SO, IT'LL SOON BE DARK IN THE EAST, AND I DON'T WANT TO BLUNDER INTO SOMETHING.
FWAP
I'D BETTER STEP ON IT, BEFORE I...


...I --!
EEYOW!
CAN'T GET ANY TRACTION!
WHAT--?!
CONFUSED, FLASH-BEING?
HAH! YOUR GREAT SPEED IS OF LITTLE ADVANTAGE WHEN YOUR BOOTS HAVE BEEN RENDERED FRICTION-LESS!
FRICTIONLESS?! HOW --? WHO --?
I AM OF THE CHOSEN ELITE. AND WHILE IN THIS BODY, FRICTION IS MINE TO CONTROL.
AND AS IT WAS YOU WHO ONCE DEFEATED TWO OF MY KIND, IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE --
WHACK
-- TO SEND YOU TO YOUR DEATH!
WHAT? DEFEATED?! I'VE NEVER...
...uh-oh!

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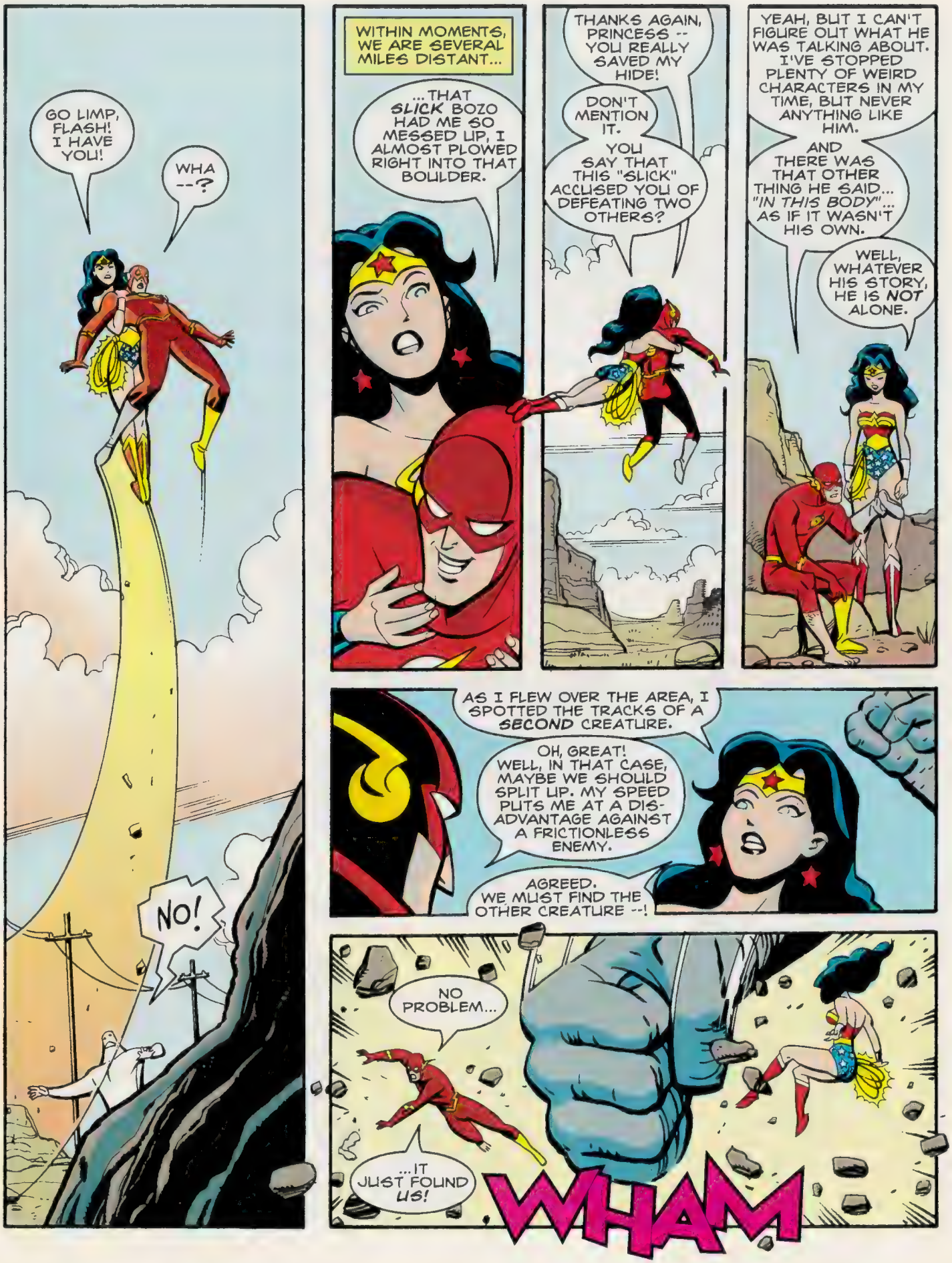
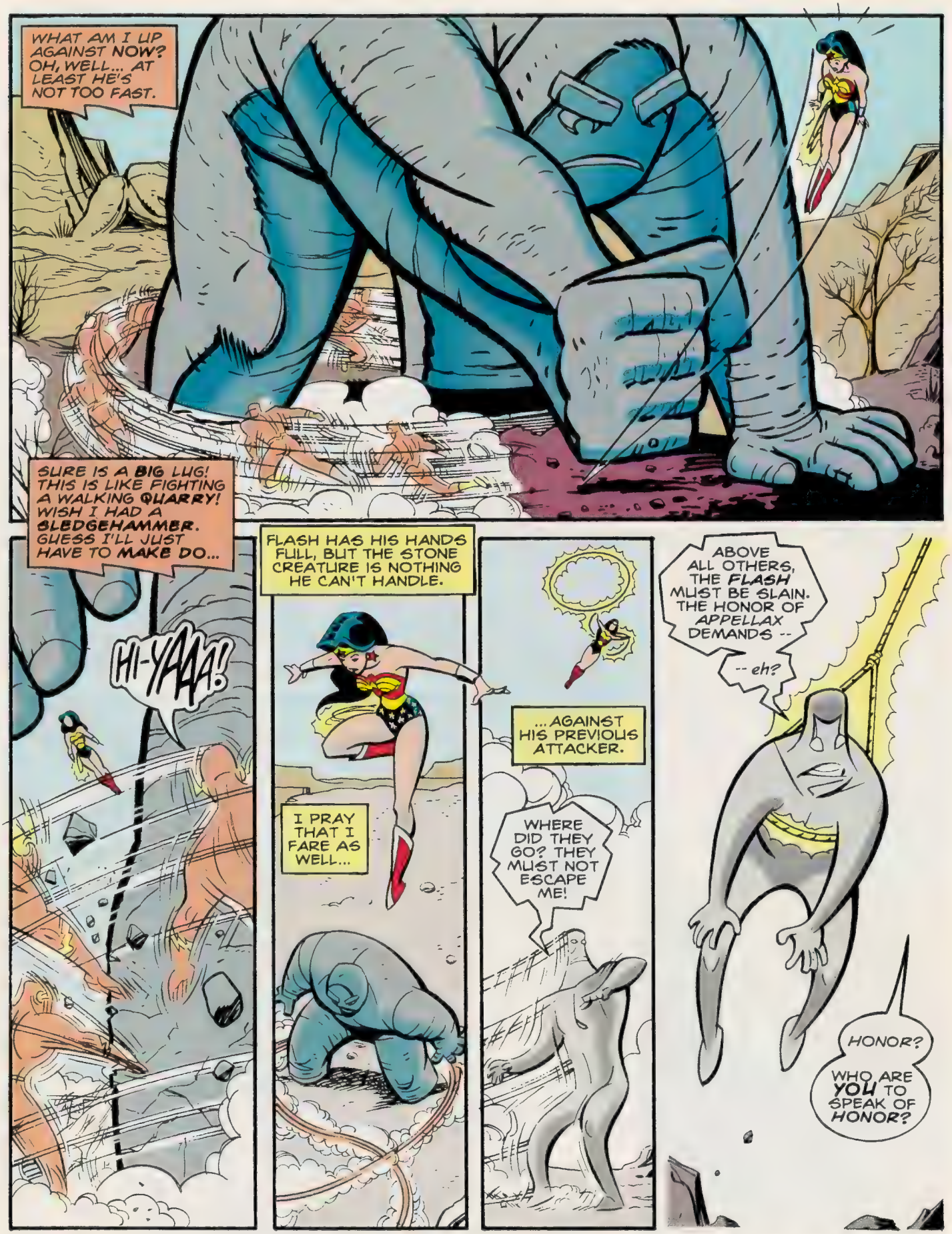
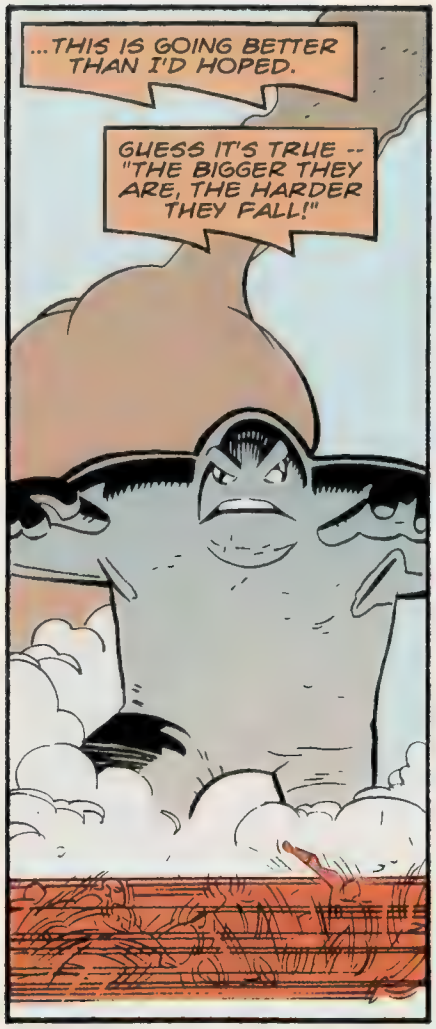
CHAPTER 3
THE OCEAN BREEZES CARRY THE SOUNDS OF JOY AND LAUGHTER SKYWARD... THE LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN AT PLAY.
THEY'RE SO HAPPY ON THEIR VACATION ISLE. I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE SO CAREFREE...
...YEARS AGO, ON ANOTHER ISLAND FAR AWAY...A HIDDEN ISLAND THAT SOME WOULD CALL PARADISE. WE CALLED IT THEMYSCIRA.
IT WAS THERE THAT I WAS BORN...DIANA, THE ONLY CHILD OF HIPPOLYTA, QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS.
AT BIRTH I WAS BLESSED BY THE ELDERS OF ANCIENT OLYMPUS --
-- AND GREW TO MATURITY WITH POWERS BEYOND EVEN THOSE OF THE OTHER AMAZONS.
BUT A DAY CAME WHEN THE OLYMPIANS DECREED THAT THE AMAZONS MUST SEND A CHAMPION OUT INTO THE WORLD...AN EMISSARY IN THE CAUSES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.
I BECAME THAT CHAMPION. THOSE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD CALLED ME...
WONDER WOMAN

THIS WORLD IS BESET WITH SO MANY PROBLEMS! THANKFULLY, I DON'T FACE THEM ALONE. EARTH IS BLESSED WITH OTHER CHAMPIONS...
...HEROES WHO HAVE WELCOMED ME INTO THEIR JUSTICE LEAGUE.
BLUE BEETLE
CAPTAIN ATOM
MARTIAN MANHUNTER
BOOSTER GOLD
TO THE PUBLIC IT MUST SEEM IMPOSSIBLE THAT ANYTHING COULD DEFEAT US. AND YET, FOUR OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED...
...STRANGE SIGNALS ARE DISRUPTING OUR COMMUNICATIONS...AND THE SOURCE OF THOSE SIGNALS SEEMS TO BE THE LEAGUE'S ORIGINAL SANCTUARY!
WITHOUT ANY WAY TO CONTACT THE OTHERS, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN.
WHAT'S THIS?! SOMETHING BIZARRE IS HAPPENING BELOW --!
AND WHAT IS THE FLASH DOING HERE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO UNCOORDINATED.
HIS ATTACKER IS GETTING THE UPPER HAND.
WHY DOESN'T FLASH DO SOMETHING? AT THAT SPEED --
-- HE'LL BE KILLED!


GO LIMP, FLASH! I HAVE YOU!
WHA --?
NO!
WITHIN MOMENTS, WE ARE SEVERAL MILES DISTANT...
...THAT SLICK BOZO HAD ME SO MESSED UP, I ALMOST PLOWED RIGHT INTO THAT BOULDER.
THANKS AGAIN, PRINCESS -- YOU REALLY SAVED MY HIDE!
DON'T MENTION IT.
YOU SAY THAT THIS "SLICK" ACCUSED YOU OF DEFEATING TWO OTHERS?
YEAH, BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. I'VE STOPPED PLENTY OF WEIRD CHARACTERS IN MY TIME, BUT NEVER ANYTHING LIKE HIM.
AND THERE WAS THAT OTHER THING HE SAID... "IN THIS BODY"... AS IF IT WASN'T HIS OWN.
WELL, WHATEVER HIS STORY, HE IS NOT ALONE.
AS I FLEW OVER THE AREA, I SPOTTED THE TRACKS OF A SECOND CREATURE.
OH, GREAT! WELL, IN THAT CASE, MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT UP. MY SPEED PUTS ME AT A DIS-ADVANTAGE AGAINST A FRICTIONLESS ENEMY.
AGREED. WE MUST FIND THE OTHER CREATURE --!
NO PROBLEM...
...IT JUST FOUND US!
WHAM

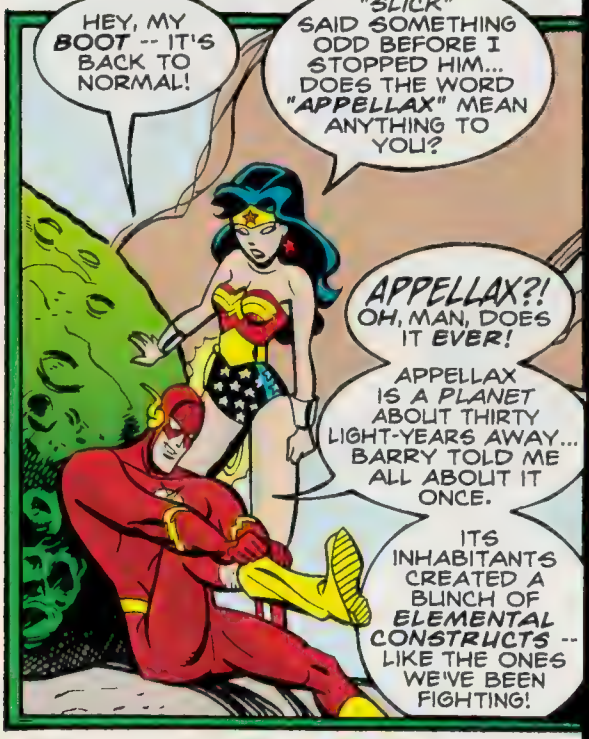

WHAT AM I UP AGAINST NOW? OH, WELL... AT LEAST HE'S NOT TOO FAST.
SURE IS A BIG LUG! THIS IS LIKE FIGHTING A WALKING QUARRY! WISH I HAD A SLEDGEHAMMER. GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO...
HI-YAAA!
FLASH HAS HIS HANDS FULL, BUT THE STONE CREATURE IS NOTHING HE CAN'T HANDLE.
I PRAY THAT I FARE AS WELL...
...AGAINST HIS PREVIOUS ATTACKER.
WHERE DID THEY GO? THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE ME!
ABOVE ALL OTHERS, THE FLASH MUST BE SLAIN. THE HONOR OF APPELLAX DEMANDS --
-- eh?
HONOR?
WHO ARE YOU TO SPEAK OF HONOR?

WHO ARE YOU -- AND WHAT IS THIS "APPELLAX"?
TELL ME! AS LONG AS YOU ARE HELD WITHIN THE COILS OF MY LASSO, YOU MUST ANSWER WITH THE TRUTH!
DO NOT GIVE ME ORDERS, EARTHER!
NOTHING CAN LONG GRIP A BODY THAT CONTROLS ITS OWN FRICTION!
NO! YOU'LL FALL --!
OF COURSE I SHALL FALL...
...BUT NO MORE SWIFTLY THAN I WISH. BY SIMPLE ACT OF WILL, MY FRICTION INCREASES TO SLOW MY DESCENT.
IT ALSO MAKES HIM AN EASIER TARGET.
I SPOTTED THIS METEOR WHEN I FLEW OVER THE AREA EARLIER, AND I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH IT...
SLAM!
...OR IS THAT TOO COMPLICATED A THOUGHT FOR A SIMPLE-MINDED "EARTHER"?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW...

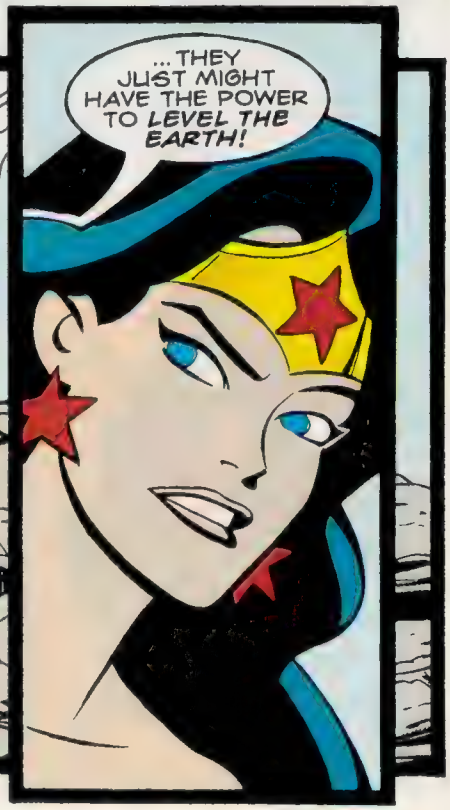

...THIS IS GOING BETTER THAN I'D HOPED.
GUESS IT'S TRUE -- "THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL!"

THIS WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT TOUGHER IF I HADN'T TAKEN THOSE KARATE CLASSES!
EVEN SO, MY HANDS AND FEET ARE GONNA BE PRETTY SORE IN THE MORNING.

IT APPEARS THAT WE HAVE BOTH BEEN SUCCESSFUL, FLASH -- WELL DONE!
THANKS, PRINCESS.


HEY, MY BOOT -- IT'S BACK TO NORMAL!
"SLICK" SAID SOMETHING ODD BEFORE I STOPPED HIM... DOES THE WORD "APPELLAX" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
APPELLAX?! OH, MAN, DOES IT EVER!
APPELLAX IS A PLANET ABOUT THIRTY LIGHT-YEARS AWAY... BARRY TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT ONCE.
ITS INHABITANTS CREATED A BUNCH OF ELEMENTAL CONSTRUCTS -- LIKE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING!

THOSE CONSTRUCTS NEARLY OVERCAME THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. THEY'RE LIKE ANDROIDS, ONLY TOUGHER!
DEPENDING ON HOW MANY ARE ON THE LOOSE THIS TIME...


... THEY JUST MIGHT HAVE THE POWER TO LEVEL THE EARTH!

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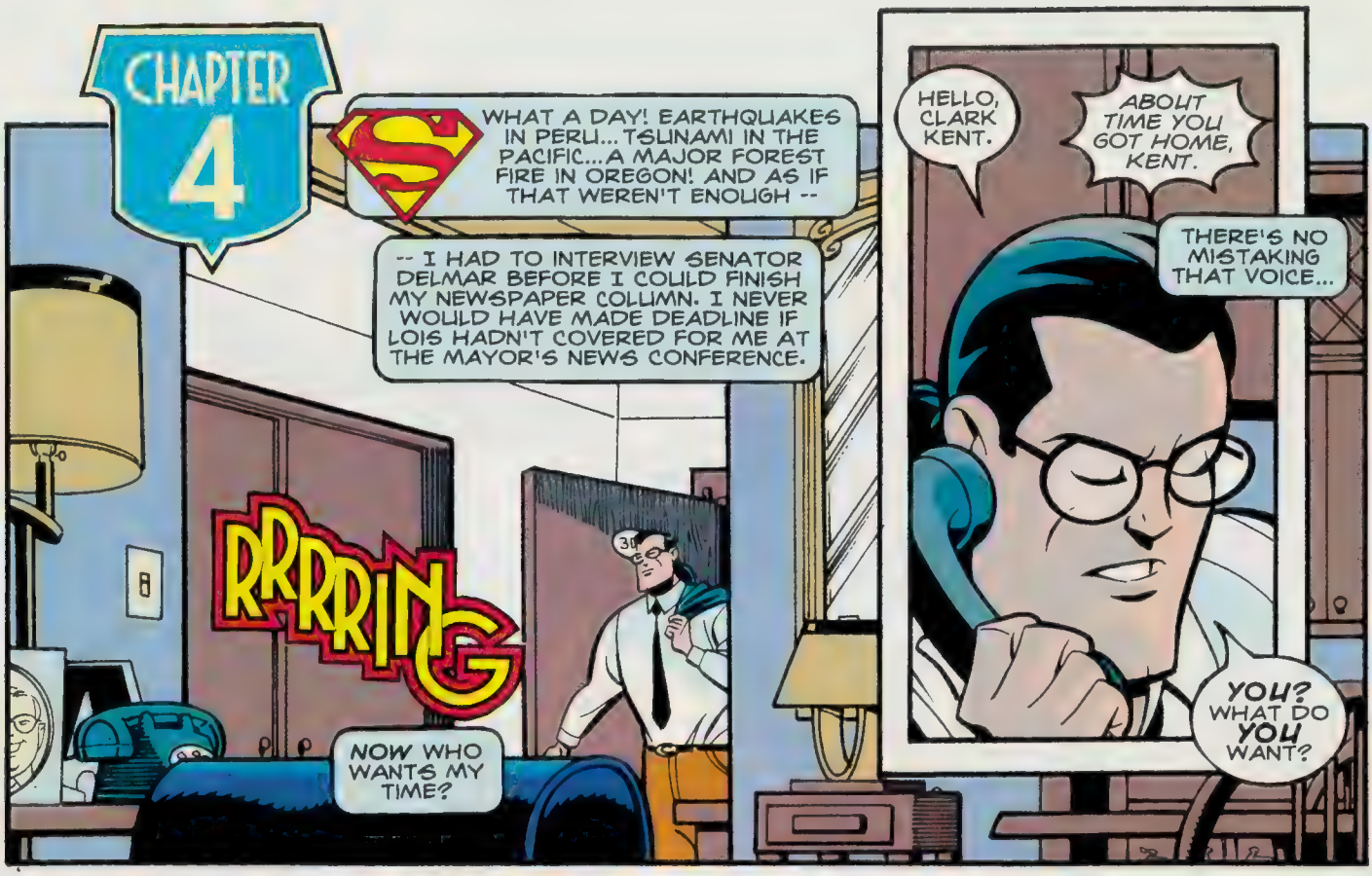
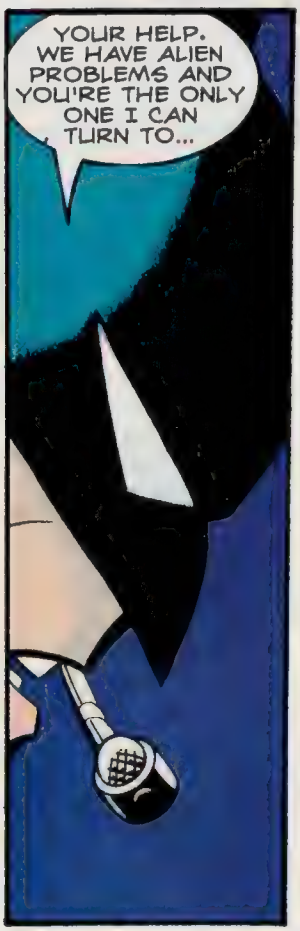
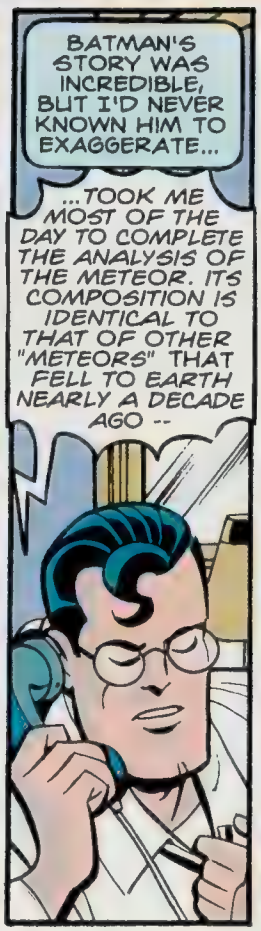
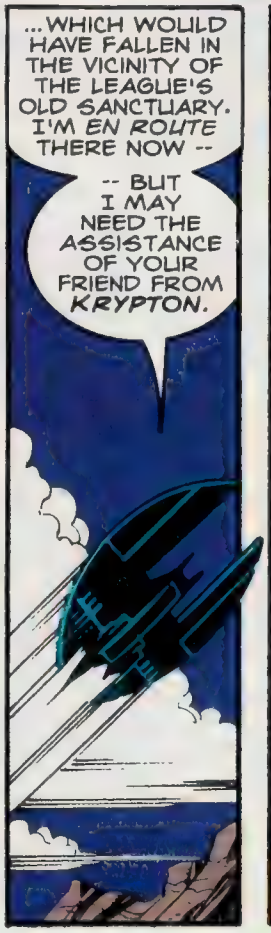
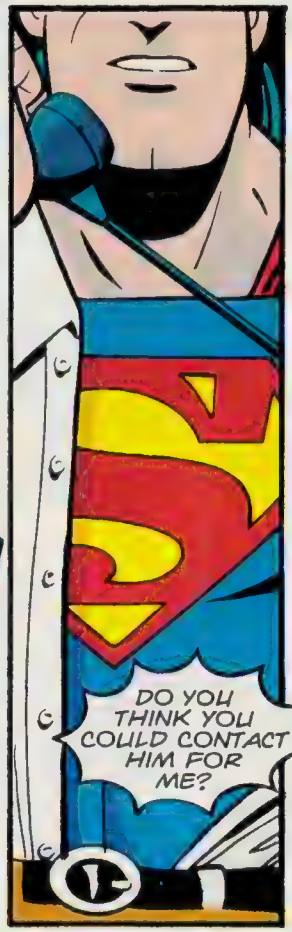

CHAPTER 4
WHAT A DAY! EARTHQUAKES IN PERU...TSUNAMI IN THE PACIFIC...A MAJOR FOREST FIRE IN OREGON! AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH --
-- I HAD TO INTERVIEW SENATOR DELMAR BEFORE I COULD FINISH MY NEWSPAPER COLUMN. I NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE DEADLINE IF LOIS HADN'T COVERED FOR ME AT THE MAYOR'S NEWS CONFERENCE.
RRRRING
NOW WHO WANTS MY TIME?
HELLO, CLARK KENT.
ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HOME, KENT.
THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT VOICE...
YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?


YOUR HELP. WE HAVE ALIEN PROBLEMS AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TURN TO...


BATMAN'S STORY WAS INCREDIBLE, BUT I'D NEVER KNOWN HIM TO EXAGGERATE...
...TOOK ME MOST OF THE DAY TO COMPLETE THE ANALYSIS OF THE METEOR. ITS COMPOSITION IS IDENTICAL TO THAT OF OTHER "METEORS" THAT FELL TO EARTH NEARLY A DECADE AGO --

-- ARTIFICIAL METEORS FROM THE PLANET APPELLAX.
WHAT?! DOES THE JUSTICE LEAGUE KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW. I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT THEM... SOMETHING IS JAMMING THEIR COMMUNICATIONS.
HOWEVER, THE IVYTOWN OBSERVATORY HAS REPORTED A METEOR SHOWER OVER RHODE ISLAND...


...WHICH WOULD HAVE FALLEN IN THE VICINITY OF THE LEAGUE'S OLD SANCTUARY. I'M EN ROUTE THERE NOW --
-- BUT I MAY NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR FRIEND FROM KRYPTON.


DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CONTACT HIM FOR ME?

KENT, ARE YOU THERE?

DID YOU HEAR ME? I SAID WE NEED SUPERMAN®

KEEP TRYING TO CONTACT THE LEAGUE, BATMAN! I'LL FLY ON AHEAD AND SCAN THE SANCTUARY REGION FOR SIGNS OF METEOR-FALL!

Incredible. He actually made his voice heard over the sound of my engines.

In all the years I've known Superman, his powers have never ceased to amaze me. I hope he's cautious, though...

... he may be the strongest man on Earth, but these are aliens we're dealing with.

Aliens. Sometimes I almost forget...

... he's an alien, too.

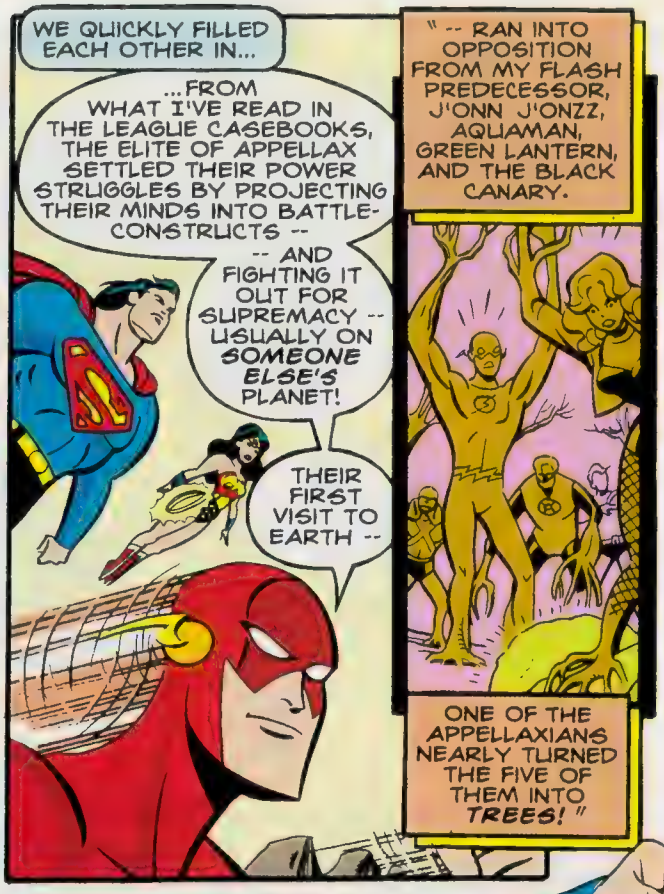
The sole survivor of the late planet Krypton, he was raised by the couple who found him. They did a good job.

Aside from his family, I'm one of the few people on Earth entrusted with the knowledge that Clark Kent leads a double life.

It's an honor to have his trust.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MIGHT BE FLYING INTO. I WISH I COULD CONTACT THE *LEAGUE* BEFORE...
...*WELL*, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

THIS *CAN'T* BE A COINCIDENCE. FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, THEY'RE --
-- GOING MY WAY?


WE QUICKLY FILLED EACH OTHER IN...
...FROM WHAT I'VE READ IN THE LEAGUE CASEBOOKS, THE ELITE OF APPELLAX SETTLED THEIR POWER STRUGGLES BY PROJECTING THEIR MINDS INTO BATTLE-CONSTRUCTS --
-- AND FIGHTING IT OUT FOR SUPREMACY -- USUALLY ON *SOMEONE ELSE'S* PLANET!
THEIR FIRST VISIT TO EARTH --
" -- RAN INTO OPPOSITION FROM MY FLASH PREDECESSOR, J'ONN J'ONZZ, AQUAMAN, GREEN LANTERN, AND THE BLACK CANARY.
ONE OF THE APPELLAXIANS NEARLY TURNED THE FIVE OF THEM INTO *TREES!* "

AFTER OUR GUYS FINALLY WON, THEY FOUNDED THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* TO HANDLE ANY OTHER COSMIC THREATS THAT MIGHT COME ALONG.
YES, AND NOW FOUR OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS -- J'ONZZ, BOOSTER GOLD, BLUE BEETLE, AND CAPTAIN ATOM -- ARE *MISSING!*
IF THEY'VE BEEN CAPTURED AND TRANSFORMED, WE COULD FACE AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM!
RIGHT! AND THE SANCTUARY IS LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE *AMBUSH CENTRAL!* I'D BETTER SCOUT IT OUT AND --!

NO. LEAVE THAT TO ME!
B-BUT, I'M *FASTER* --!
YES, BUT I CAN SCOPE THINGS OUT BETTER!

OKAY, MISTER *X-RAY VISION*... GO ON AHEAD!
WITH HIM ON THE CASE, WHY DOES ANYONE NEED *US* AROUND?

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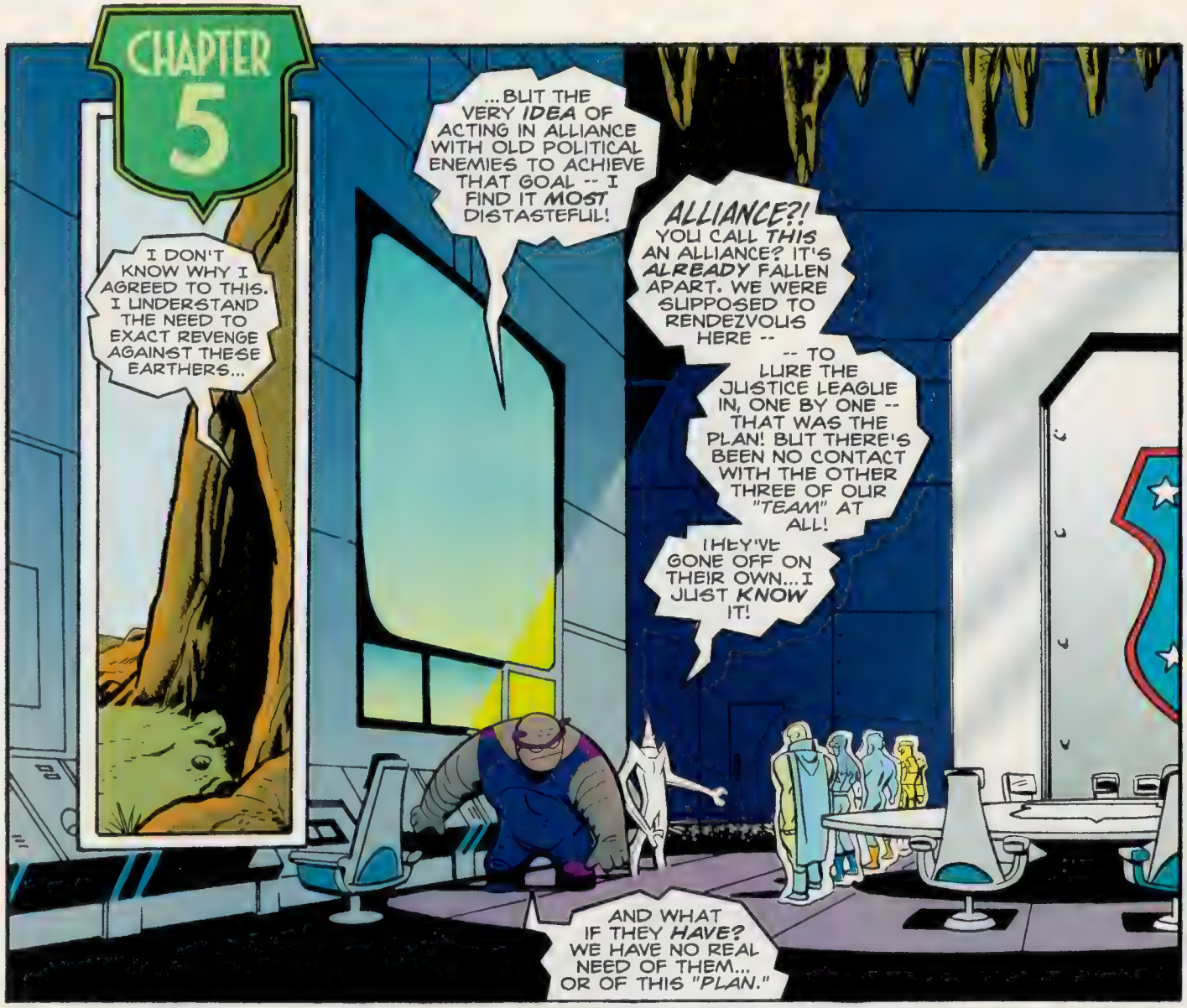
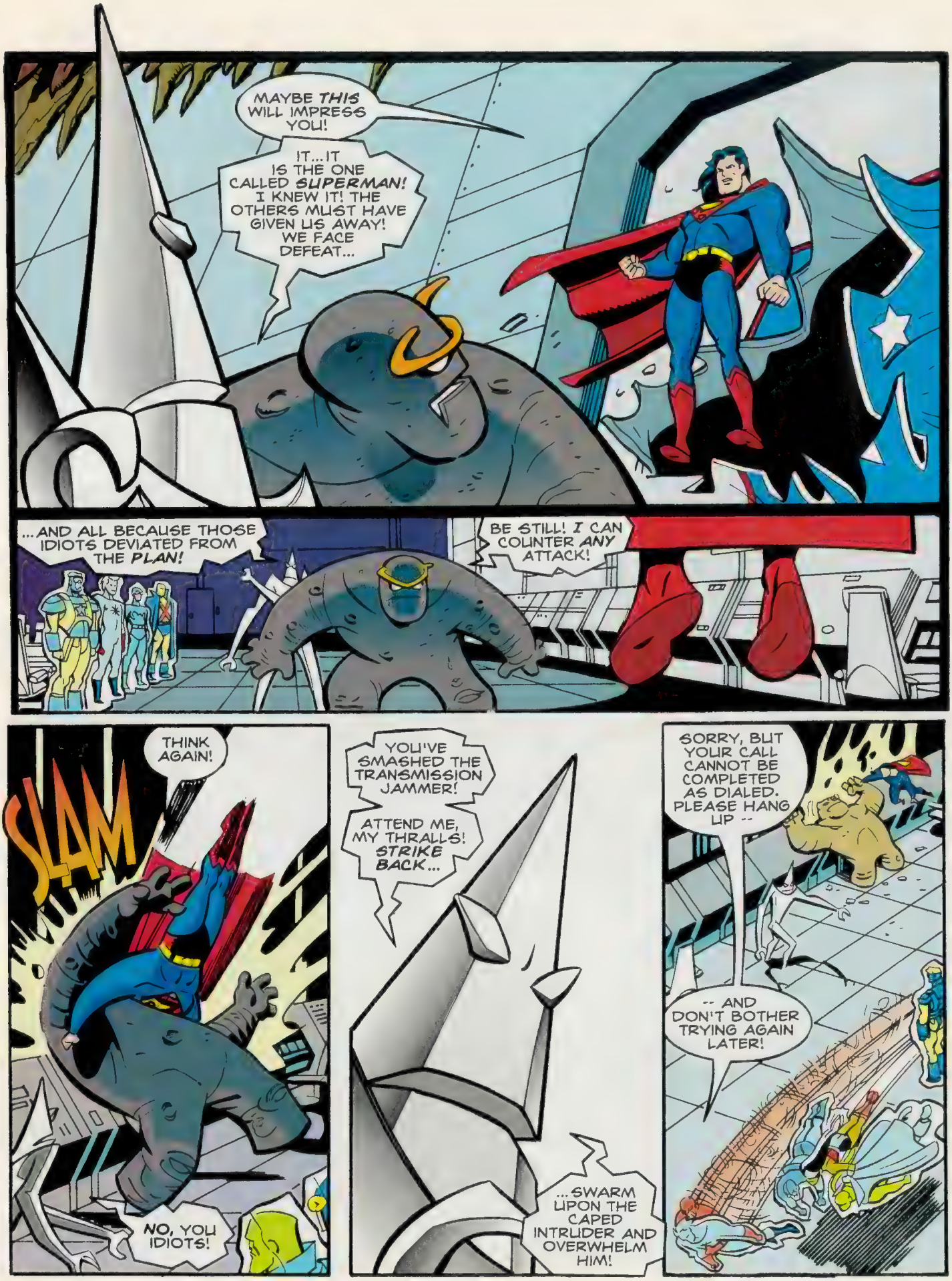
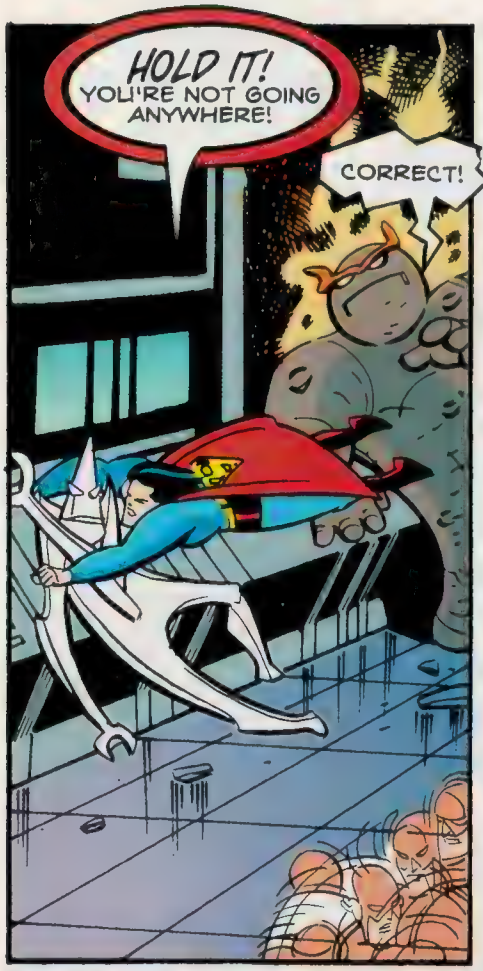

CHAPTER 5
I DON'T KNOW WHY I AGREED TO THIS. I UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO EXACT REVENGE AGAINST THESE EARTHERS...
...BUT THE VERY IDEA OF ACTING IN ALLIANCE WITH OLD POLITICAL ENEMIES TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL -- I FIND IT MOST DISTASTEFUL!
ALLIANCE?! YOU CALL THIS AN ALLIANCE? IT'S ALREADY FALLEN APART. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO RENDEZVOUS HERE --
-- TO LURE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IN, ONE BY ONE -- THAT WAS THE PLAN! BUT THERE'S BEEN NO CONTACT WITH THE OTHER THREE OF OUR "TEAM" AT ALL!
THEY'VE GONE OFF ON THEIR OWN...I JUST KNOW IT!
AND WHAT IF THEY HAVE? WE HAVE NO REAL NEED OF THEM... OR OF THIS "PLAN."

DO YOU STILL DENY THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR OWN EYES? BEHOLD -- FOUR MIGHTY JUSTICE LEAGUERS...
...LED INTO AMBUSH WITH FAKED RADIO TRANSMISSIONS AS PER THE PLAN -- MY PLAN! -- AND TRANSFORMED TO AWAIT MY BIDDING!
BAH! I COULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE SAME ON MY OWN. I AM NOT IMPRESSED.

KATHANG


MAYBE THIS WILL IMPRESS YOU!
IT...IT IS THE ONE CALLED SUPERMAN! I KNEW IT! THE OTHERS MUST HAVE GIVEN US AWAY! WE FACE DEFEAT...
...AND ALL BECAUSE THOSE IDIOTS DEVIATED FROM THE PLAN!
BE STILL! I CAN COUNTER ANY ATTACK!
SLAM
THINK AGAIN!
NO, YOU IDIOTS!
YOU'VE SMASHED THE TRANSMISSION JAMMER!
ATTEND ME, MY THRALLS! STRIKE BACK...
...SWARM UPON THE CAPED INTRUDER AND OVERWHELM HIM!
SORRY, BUT YOUR CALL CANNOT BE COMPLETED AS DIALED. PLEASE HANG UP --
-- AND DON'T BOTHER TRYING AGAIN LATER!


HOLD IT! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
CORRECT!

MY CRYSTALLINE RIVAL IS GOING NOWHERE! HE HAS QUITE OUTLIVED ANY USEFULNESS HE HAD TO ME!
WHAT?!

I AGREED TO THIS ABSURD ALLIANCE FOR A CHANCE TO REACH EARTH AND AVENGE THE HUMILIATING DEFEAT HANDED OUR PREDECESSORS!
THIS BODY GIVES ME ALL THE POWER THAT IS NEEDED TO PREVAIL!
I'VE HEARD THAT SONG BEFORE --!

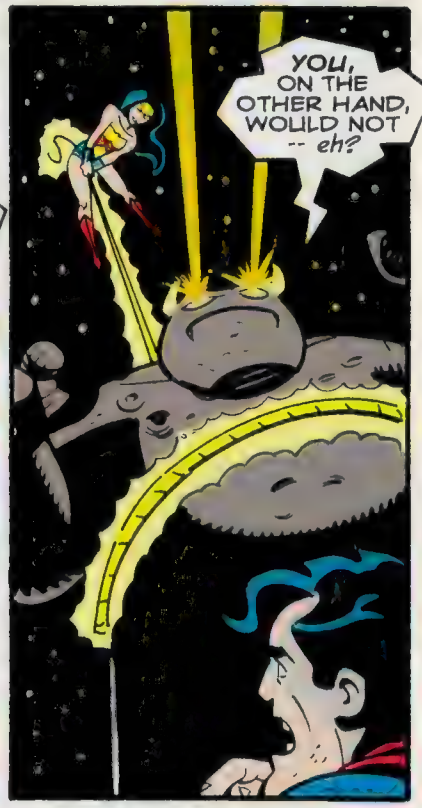
THEY'RE BACK TO NORMAL... THEY'RE COMING OUT OF IT!
THEN SUPERMAN HAS DEFEATED THE CRYSTAL MAN. IT'S ALL OVER NOW!

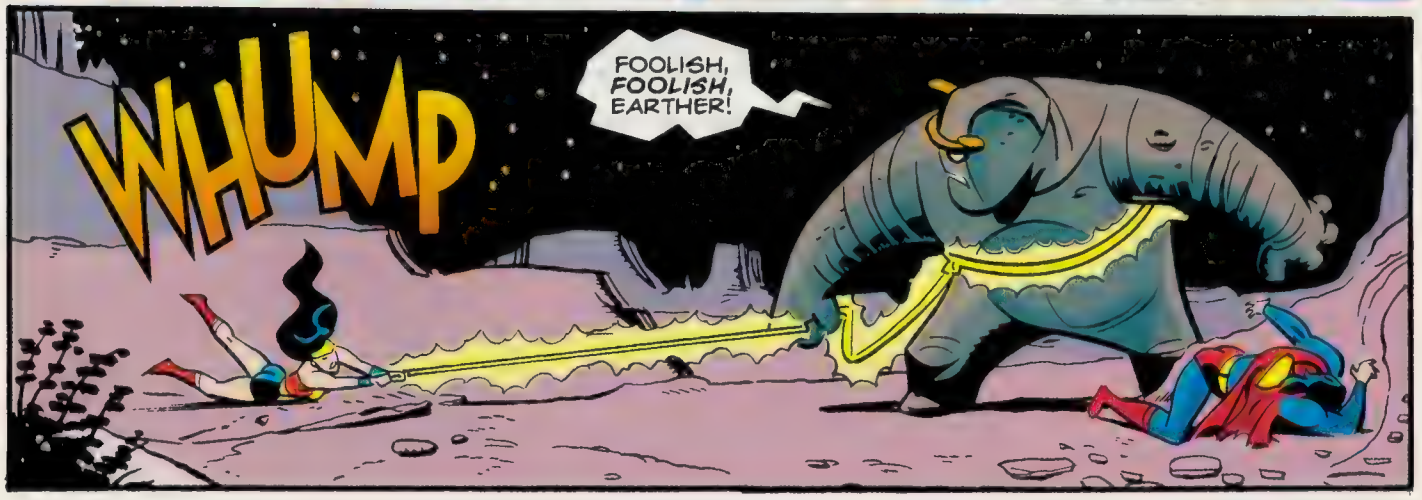
NOT... QUITE!
WHAM

WE HAVE INTERCEPTED BROADCASTS THAT TOLD OF YOU, SUPERMAN -- OF HOW YOU POSSESS POWERS BEYOND THOSE OF ORDINARY MEN.
BUT SO DO I.
THIS CONSTRUCT-BODY POSSESSES FULL, UNBRIDLED THERMONUCLEAR POWER! IF I SO DESIRE, I CAN ACHIEVE A CRITICAL MASS!
-UNNGH- YOU... WOULDN'T DARE...

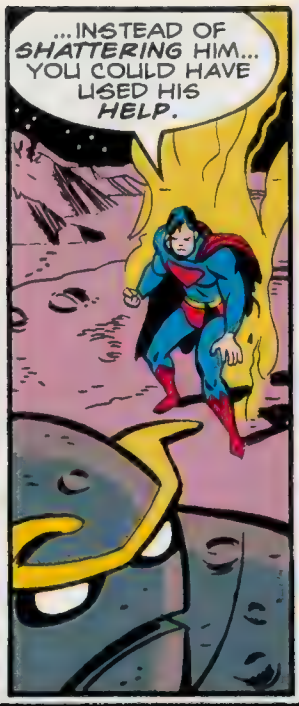
"YES, SUPERMAN. I WOULD."
NO!
FLEET FEET CALLING DARK KNIGHT --
-- CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? WE'VE GOT BIG TROUBLE DOWN HERE. BACKUP NEEDED, OVER.

EXPLOSION WOULD... DESTROY YOU...
IT WOULD DESTROY THIS FORM, YES -- ALONG WITH A GOOD BIT OF THIS CONTINENT!
BUT MY MIND WOULD RETURN TO MY TRUE BODY ON APPELLAX. I WOULD SURVIVE.

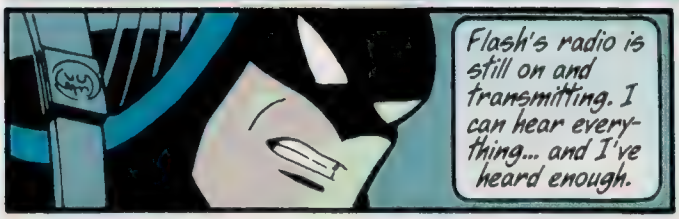

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD NOT -- eh?

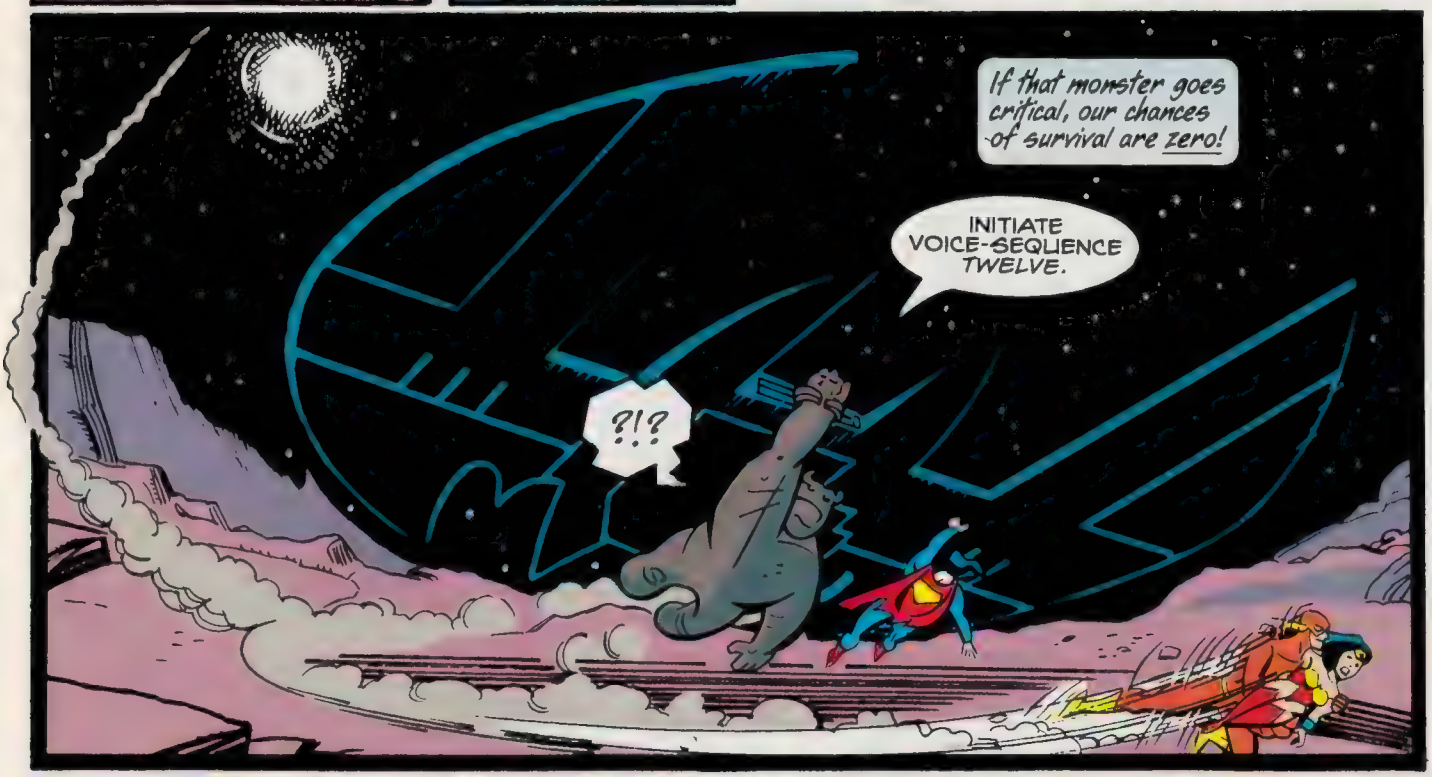

WHUMP
FOOLISH, FOOLISH, EARTHER!

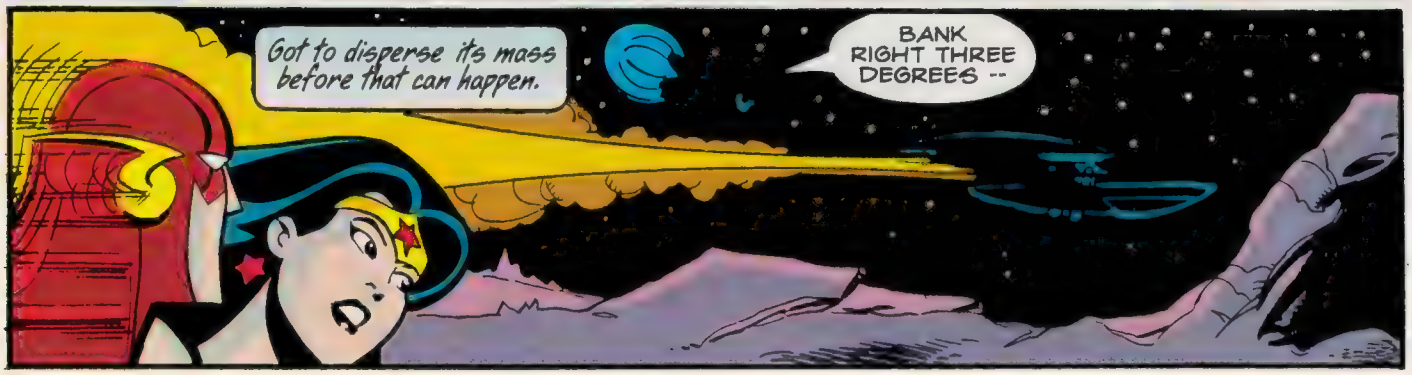
I SHALL KILL YOU FIRST.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE... YOU CAN'T STOP US *ALL*. YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR CRYSTAL FRIEND...


...INSTEAD OF *SHATTERING* HIM... YOU COULD HAVE USED HIS *HELP*.

I NEED THE HELP OF *NO ONE!*
MINE IS THE POWER TO DESTROY YOU *ALL!*
SPEED: 107
ALTITUDE: 42


Flash's radio is still on and transmitting. I can hear everything... and I've heard enough.


If that monster goes critical, our chances of survival are zero!
INITIATE VOICE-SEQUENCE *TWELVE*.
?!?


Got to disperse its mass before that can happen.
BANK RIGHT THREE DEGREES --

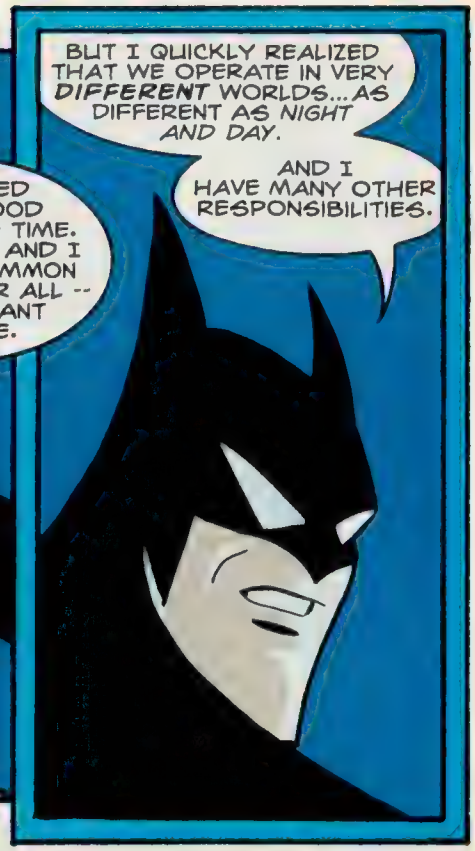
"-- AND ON MY COMMAND...
"...DESTRUCT!"

TALK ABOUT THINKING FAST --! THE CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSIVE BATMAN SET OFF PREVENTED A NUCLEAR BLOWOUT --
-- AND ALL THE LEFTOVER RADIOACTIVE STUFF WAS CONTAINED IN HERE, WHERE CAPTAIN ATOM CAN DEAL WITH IT.
NOT MUCH LEFT OF THE PLACE.
WE DIDN'T LOSE ANYTHING IRREPLACEABLE. AND MAYBE NOW THE APPELLAXIANS WILL THINK TWICE BEFORE THEY MESS WITH US AGAIN!
WELL, ONE THING'S CERTAIN -- WE ALL OWE A LOT TO THE BATMAN.

BATMAN?
OUT HERE.

CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT BACK TO GOTHAM?
YES, THANK YOU. I'D BEST GET BACK BEFORE DAWN... I DON'T BELONG OUT IN THE DAYTIME. AND I DON'T REALLY BELONG HERE, WITH THE LEAGUE...
...NOT ANYMORE.

YES, YOUR... STYLE DOESN'T SEEM TO FIT THE LEAGUE'S. AND YET, YOU WERE A MEMBER LONG BEFORE I WAS.
I'VE OFTEN WONDERED... WHY DID YOU JOIN?
IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME. THE LEAGUE AND I SHARED COMMON GOALS, AFTER ALL -- WE ALL WANT JUSTICE.

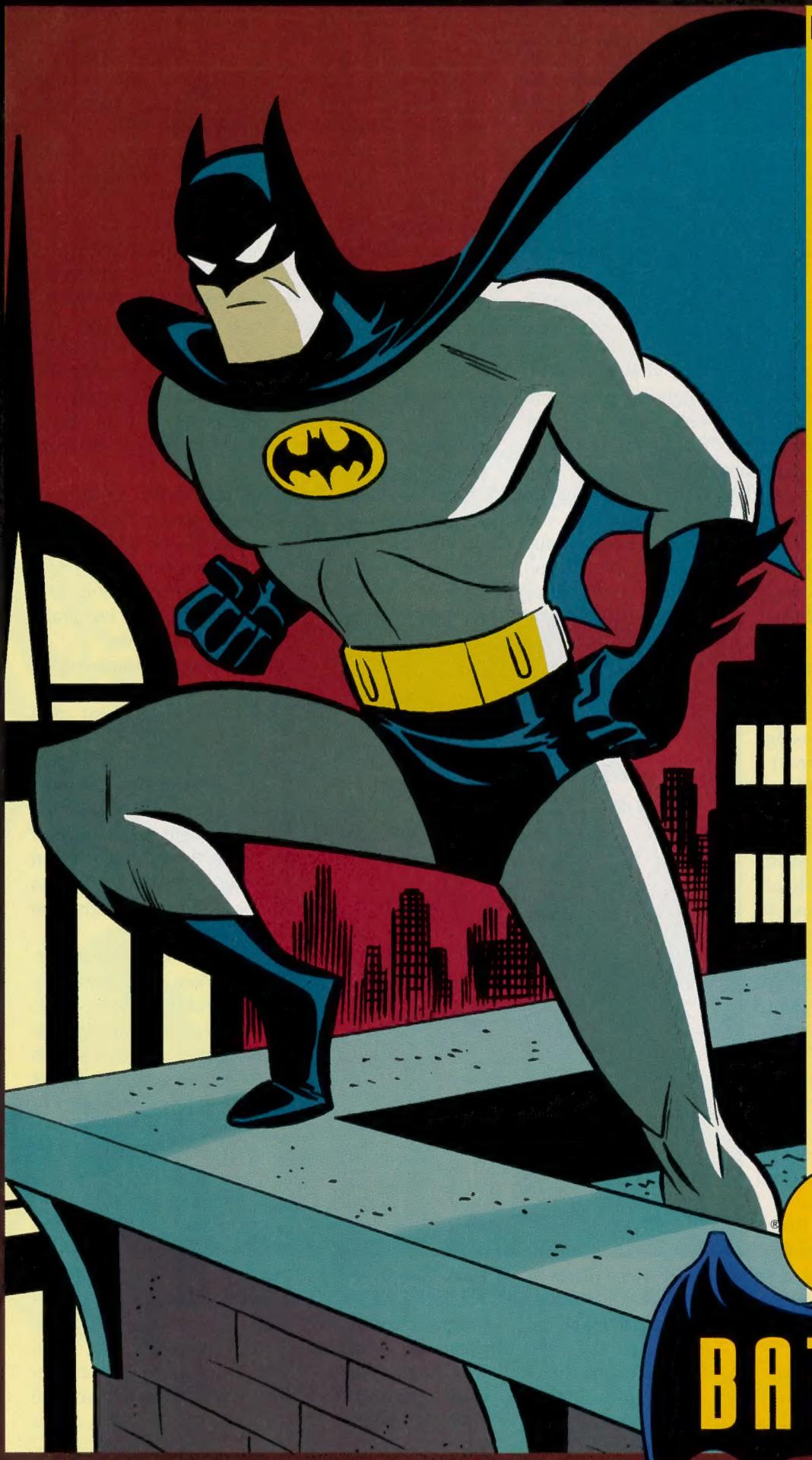

BUT I QUICKLY REALIZED THAT WE OPERATE IN VERY DIFFERENT WORLDS... AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY.
AND I HAVE MANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. MY OWN CAREER KEEPS ME SO BUSY, I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO DEVOTE TO BEING A REGULAR TEAM MEMBER.

STILL, IT'S BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE WITH THESE PEOPLE...

"...AND IT FEELS GOOD JUST KNOWING THAT THERE'S A
JUSTICE LEAGUE
ON CALL...READY TO FACE THE THREATS THAT ARE TOO GREAT FOR ANY ONE OF US TO HANDLE ALONE."
END

Clip and save!



THE HERO FILE

A.K.A.: The Dark Knight

Alter Ego: Bruce Wayne

Occupation: Billionaire socialite

Known Relatives: Dr. Thomas Wayne (father, deceased); Martha Wayne (mother, deceased)

Base of Operations: Gotham City

Partner: Robin (A.K.A. Dick Grayson)

Group Affiliation: Justice League America (reserve member)

First Appearance: Detective Comics #27 (May 1939)

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 210 pounds

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Batman created by Bob Kane

Pencils: MIKE PAROBECK; inks and colors: BRUCE TIMM

BATMAN

Clip and save!

Gotham City is a nightmare. Crime stalks its streets like a wild beast, and many ordinary citizens live in fear. The police do their best, but in the most dangerous city on earth even they need help.

That help came in the form of a vigilante; a hero, afraid of nothing and no one. In true Gotham style, its greatest defender was born from a night of violence and pain.

Bruce Wayne was only eight years old when both his parents were shot, killed before his eyes by a mugger. As a storm raged, Bruce knelt at their graves and made a grief-stricken vow. He swore that he would devote his life to fighting crime. And he made one other vow: He would never kill. Having watched his own parents die, he knew no one has the right to take another's life. From that moment on he dedicated himself to learning the skills he would one day need.

Bruce grew up at Wayne Mansion, cared for only by his father's loyal butler, Alfred Pennyworth, and Dr. Leslie Thompkins, an old family friend. They worried about Bruce, who spent his time alone, reading or exploring the vast building and its grounds.

Through his teenage years, Bruce remained a boy apart. A brilliant scholar and world-class athlete, he exasperated his teachers by showing no interest in academic glory, and even less in organized sport.

When he inherited the family fortune at age eighteen, Bruce began to travel. He studied forensic detection in Paris, and criminal behavior in London. In Africa he learned how to track anything, and in Asia he learned martial arts from the world's masters.

After five years, Bruce thought he was ready. But his first night as a crime fighter was a disaster. The crooks he challenged weren't afraid, and they didn't surrender. He defeated the criminals but almost lost his life.

Bruce was in despair. He sat in the dimly lit library, lost in bitter thoughts of failure. Suddenly, the window was smashed—and into the room flew a huge bat. Its fierce eyes shone red, and its fangs were bared. For a moment, Bruce was terrified... and then realized he had the answer.

Like the fearsome bat, Bruce Wayne would become a creature of the night, a predator who would prey on criminals.

In that instant, the Batman was born.

Taking only the trusted Alfred into his confidence, Bruce designed the perfect costume. A deep cavern beneath the house, discovered on one of Bruce's boyhood expeditions, became the Batcave. The Wayne millions helped provide a forensics laboratory, supercomputers, and the Batmobile. He perfected the tools of his trade—the Batarang, the Bat-grapple, and the ultrastrong Batline. Each pouch on his Utility Belt would hold a different crime-fighting aid.

One day, after hoodlums killed the parents of teenage acrobat Dick Grayson, Bruce Wayne took the boy under his wing. When Bruce revealed his secret identity to Dick, the teenager soon became Batman's partner. He adopted the name Robin and quickly earned his place by Batman's side.

Early on, Batman helped out James Gordon—Gotham's toughest and most honest cop. When Jim was eventually promoted to Police Commissioner, he installed a searchlight on the roof of Police Headquarters. When danger threatens, it casts the Bat-Signal high into the night skies.

Villains like the Joker, Two-Face, Catwoman, the Riddler, Scarecrow, the Penguin, and Poison Ivy have clashed with Batman many times. Yet only one has managed to break him—the evil Bane, who severely injured Batman and took over the Gotham underworld.

But Batman wasn't finished. The city needed its Dark Knight more than ever. For many months, Bruce toiled on a punishing physical and mental program that brought him back to peak fitness.

After an epic battle that spanned the city, Bane was finally defeated. And high above the crime-ridden streets, the Batman continues to guard the Gotham night.

—Alan Grant

Clip and Save!
Clip and Save!

Tues.
Wed.
Thurs.
Fri.!
Tim's speech is getting better. Got him to imagine his audience in their underwear so he wouldn't be so nervous. Brought Tim 2 more boxes of Crunch. He loves that sweet crunchy taste!
Tim can't wait to give speech. Maybe all he needed was to crunch up his confidence. Cleaned my room. Have to stop eating my cereal in bed.
Tim's speech was terrific! Got applause from the whole class. I knew he could do it. Weekend! Time to go to national speed boat races!
Helped Tim with speech. Told him to pick a topic he enjoys. Tim picked mountain bikes. We had a bowl of my delicious cereal.
Took Tim his favorite cereal, Cap'n Crunch. He's not sure about giving a speech to his class. Sent blue suit to cleaners.
CAP'N CRUNCH
CAP'N'S JOURNAL
You and the Cap'n make it happen!
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